

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of )  
 ) MD Docket No. 08-65  
Assessment and Collection of Regulatory )  
Fees for Fiscal Year 2008 )

COMMENTS FILED TO A  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Filed by: Personal Radio Steering Group, Inc.  
PO Box 2851  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106  
(734) 662-4533  
E-mail: prsg@provide.net

Date: September 25, 2008

=====

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraph No.
I. Background of the Commenter.	1
II. Background of the Docket.	3
III. Justification of the types of fees.	5
III.A. The Application Fee.	5

=====

## I. BACKGROUND OF THE COMMENTER.

1. The Personal Radio Steering Group, Inc. (PRSG) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit Michigan corporation established in 1980 by licensees in the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS, FCC Part 95-A) to provide services to and to serve as an advocate for users of the FCC's personal radio services.

2. The PRSG has published more than 300 different guidelines to GMRS licensing, technology and operating practices in the various personal radio services. PRSG also works closely with major land mobile equipment manufacturers to disseminate instructional materials for radio purchasers.

## II. BACKGROUND OF THE DOCKET.

3. At para 32, the NPRM notes:

GMRS is a two-way radio service licensed to individuals. Prospective licensees pay a \$50 license application fee for a five-year license term as well as a \$25 regulatory fee. Such costs may be larger than the price of the GMRS device. In addition, other individual radio devices, such as the Family Radio Service, do not pay such fees. These issues may contribute to the low rate of compliance with our licensing requirements for GMRS. We therefore propose to eliminate the regulatory fees for GMRS devices. The application fee would continue to apply for this service. We seek comments on this proposal.

4. This NPRM proposes elimination only of the regulatory fee, and not the more sizeable application fee. PRSG applauds the FCC's acknowledgement of the problem of unlicensed GMRS use, but we believe an alternative approach would be more successful.

### III. JUSTIFICATION OF THE TYPES OF FEES

#### III.A. THE APPLICATION FEE.

5. The application fee is supposed to recover the FCC's costs of processing applications. When the FCC first imposed this fee, the FCC required that applicants submit their requests on an FCC Form 574. This is the same form as the FCC uses in the Private Land Mobile Radio Services governed by Part 90. The Form requests specific, detailed technical information about the stations requested to be FCC authorized.

6. When the FCC required both GMRS and the PLMRS applicants to submit the same Form and provide the same level of technical detail, it was arguably reasonable that the same application fee should apply to both groups of applicants. However, the FCC subsequently changed the requirement for applying for a GMRS license to a new FCC Form 605. This new form requires substantially less information, including virtually none of the technical details required on the FCC Form 574.

7. However, the FCC did not address the amount of the application fee when this new FCC Form 605 was first introduced. Instead, the FCC kept the application fee for GMRS (on the new Form 605) the same as for the PLMRS (on the FCC Form 574).

8. Retaining a \$50 (or actually now, \$60) application fee for GMRS (using the FCC Form 605) is indefensible. A more realistic level reflecting the FCC's actual cost of processing GMRS applications would be more on the order of \$2 to \$4.

### III.B. THE REGULATORY FEE

9. The regulatory (or time-based "user") fee should reflect the FCC's expense of administering the development and enforcement of its rules. The current fee is based on a level of \$5/year, or \$25 for a five-year GMRS license. GMRS licensees would have no serious objection to this level of fee if they perceived they were actually receiving \$5/year of benefit.

10. Therefore, it is not the regulatory fee but the application fee which the FCC should now consider for reduction.

### IV. IN SUMMARY.

11. PRSG strongly supports a reduction of FCC fees collected from applicants and licensees in the GMRS. However, we believe that both the licensed and the unlicensed GMRS public would prefer to have a restructuring of these fees to reflect the actual cost of processing applications, and the actual cost of FCC rulemaking and enforcement in GMRS.

/s/

Corwin D. Moore, Jr., Administrative Coordinator  
Personal Radio Steering Group, Inc.

PO Box 2851

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

E-mail: prsg@provide.net